

THE DAILY PUBLIC LEDGER

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THE PUBLIC SCHOOL GRIND.

The complaint is frequently made against the American public school, that it is too much of a machine, that it offers no chance for the bright child. He must dawdle away his time, relieved by sticking pins in his next neighbor, while the rules of arithmetic and the facts of history are explained over and over again to slower witted children.

There are a host of people who learn only by their eyes, by seeing a thing done. You find it in every business office. There are some to whom it is absolutely no use to give extended verbal orders. You must do a thing and let them see you do it, and then they follow you by imitation if they can't by reason. So with children. The teacher must do the example over and over again before they can grasp the principle, which in the form of a written rule is meaningless.

Meanwhile, what is the boy, to do who takes to books as an Indian to the chase?

Here is where the good teacher can make her value count. The bright child with a little help can always skip one or two grades in the years before the high school. Don't be afraid to let them try it. But it means that Teacher must stay after school a few moments, and untangle new and knotty problems.

There are few teachers who are unwilling to do this. The child who pushes ahead without prodding is such a relief, in contrast with the average listlessness of the school run, that the teacher usually feels that here at least her work has some reward.

Much is said in the newspapers about the crowding of the public school. Probably it does not pay to push a child if he does not want to go. When you suggest to most of them that they go ahead and save a year, the reply is "We're getting our lessons and isn't that enough?" But don't let your boy expect that he is going through school without some work.

ONE EFFICIENT DEMOCRAT.

In marked contrast with the record of inefficiency made by almost all other departments of the government service, the Interior Department, presided over by Secretary Franklin K. Lane, seems to have rendered a public service that shows originality and initiative in constructive work for the public work. The annual report of that department, which has just been made public, indicates a business like management of nearly all the bureaus in his charge. This will be gratifying to all the people of the United States, regardless of party politics. It is a pleasure to Republicans, in particular, to say a word of commendation of this department, and it is a matter of regret that we find it impossible, with due regard to veracity, to give commendation to all branches of the public service. It is gratifying to find, even in one instance, that the Democratic administration has shown efficiency.

It is not to be overlooked, however, that Secretary Lane is not a discovery of President Wilson. Mr. Lane was formerly a newspaper man on the Pacific coast, and was appointed a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission by President Roosevelt in 1905. He was recognized by business men as one of the strongest members of that body. The recognition of his ability by a Republican President and his retention as a member of the Commission by Republican administrations was what led to his recognition by President Wilson.

THE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SAVE.

Very considerable success is being secured by banks and other institutions that run Christmas Savings Clubs. In many places people are willing to set aside a given sum every week for a year without any interest return. There are a great many people who simply can't save anything, unless they join some such plan and bind themselves by some kind of pledge.

Such people do not plan out their expenditure in advance. They take their weekly wage and spend it freely until it is gone. Then they sit tight, live scantily and borrow money until the "ghost walks" again, when once more they are in clover.

Such persons have a sanguine and happy go lucky temperament which fears not the future. If they can get along without misfortune or special calls for funds they may enjoy life very well. But the rainy day comes at last. Unless one is to eat the bread of dependence in later years, the saving habit must become a lifelong policy, not one temporarily created by the incitement of a savings club.

REPRESENTATION OF COLORED VOTERS.

The New York World (Democratic) is hurling epithets at the Republican National Committee because the new apportionment of delegates will give a smaller representation to Southern states, which never help elect a Republican candidate. The particular complaint of the World is that the decrease in representation will be in states that send colored delegates. If the World is so solicitous for the welfare of the colored delegates, it can find plenty of room for agitation within the Democratic party. The last Republican National convention contained fifty-five colored delegates. The Democratic convention contained none, except that a colored alternate from Colorado was seated on the third day of the convention when his principal became ill. Now, let the World and all other Democrats shout themselves hoarse over lack of representation for the colored voters.

The financial sharps of the Treasury Department believe that their proposed tax on gasoline will produce \$27,000,000 a year. This may be so. And every time a motorist has his gasoline tank filled he will register anew his vow to vote against the party that put the tax on.

Never in his palmy days as a college professor did Woodrow Wilson ever confront a class so eager to secure knowledge as that which he now sees in Congress. Mexico, the Treasury, the civil service, the navy, the army—Congress wants to know all about everything.

In writing up fashionable weddings now it is customary to reckon the diamond gifts by the quart rather than the dollar.

ITEMS FROM ALL AROUND

Possum Hunters Busy.

(Whitesburg East Kentucky News.)
"Possum hunting is the order of the night hereabouts and many a good, big, fat, sleek rascal is being 'cotched'."

Seventy-six Possums.

(Princeton Leader.)
Austin Williamson and Mack Vinton of the Farmersville section of the county, have the best 'possum hunting record we have heard of this season. They have caught seventy-six 'possums in six weeks. Come on with "dem sweet taters."

And the Major Ones, Too.

(Cynthiana Democrat.)
While the Maysville Brass Band was discoursing sweet music on Second street in that city Sunday afternoon some naughty boys who couldn't distinguish a nocturne from a schooner of Ripley beer, knocked the minor notes out with a shower of snowballs. The band broke off in the middle of Beethoven's 77th Etude and fugged the boys to cover.

May Be Going Yet.

(Bourbon News.)
The present whereabouts of the flaming meteor that so startled Kentucky people last Wednesday morning is still a matter of mystery. It is claimed by a dozen or more towns that large fragments of the wanderer fell in their respective neighborhoods. Paris modestly disclaims being the burial ground of any part of the aerolite, even the most infinitesimal part thereof.

A young woman living near North Middletown told a Paris newspaper man that when the meteor passed the home of Mr. E. K. Thomas, the atmosphere was made so intensely hot that the varnish on the furniture peeled off in great flakes, and water in a bucket gave off steam like a teakettle.

That meteor was "going some" for a staid and quiet community like North Middletown.

Bishop of Montana, 77 years old today.
Hon. Thomas N. Hart, former Mayor of Boston, 87 years old today.
Brig. Gen. Harry R. Anderson, U. S. A., retired, noted Indian fighter, 72 years old today.

OUR DAILY BIRTHDAY PARTY

January 20.

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1788—Colony formed at Sydney, Australia, consisting of English convicts.

1790—Lafayette urged dropping title of nobility; he renounced his own title.

1798—Frigate Crescent, loaded with present for the Bey of Algiers from the United States government, sailed from Portsmouth, N. H.

1861—Jefferson Davis, United States Senator from Mississippi, withdrew from Congress.

1877—Close of European conference at Constantinople; Turkey rejected proposals of the powers.

1901—Kaiser arrived in London because of Queen Victoria's failing health.

1902—King Edward and President Roosevelt exchanged the first wireless message.

1914—U. S. government began the task of caring for Mexican federal refugees at Fort Bliss, Texas.

1915—Gutierrez proclaimed his independence of Carranza and deposed Villa and Zapata as commanders.

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Enterprising Firm.

(Anderson News.)

At the rock quarry of the Kentucky River Stone and Sand Company Monday it cost that company \$600 to make one shot that caused 10,000 yards of metal to be torn out of the ground for crushing purposes. Of course the metal has to be loaded on the small car to be drawn up the "incline" by electric power to the immense rock crusher and then dumped into the large bins for crushing purposes. This company keeps a force of some thirty or forty hands at work each day to get out metal, crush rock, load same, dump it and many other things too numerous to mention in connection with this splendid plant. It is a great enterprise and the Messrs. Ripley who compose the company, are deserving of much praise.

Some Hunter.

(Middlesboro Three States.)
When it comes to hunting, John Chesney, the popular secretary of the Manning Real Estate and Insurance Company, has the world skinned a country block. John arose the other morning at the break of day; the frost on the ground was almost as heavy as a large snow and he proceeded to haunts of wild game on the outskirts of the city. In crossing a little ravine he spied an animal some distance up the branch, which seemed to be playing and did not try to hide itself. John took deliberate aim with his trusty gun and fired. His prey fell over into the branch and floated for a distance and stopped in the middle of the swift current. No way to get there but to wade the branch and it was puzzling to know why this varmint would stop in the middle of the creek. Upon investigation, it was found to be a large muskrat caught in a trap and the trap tied to the bank of the creek with a long chain. The animal was left for the trapper, who no doubt is wondering why the large rat could commit suicide in such a manner. This story is vouched for by Wade Gibson and we take no credit for the correctness of same.

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